

PRESS RELEASE



Calaveras Superior Court

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Douglas V. Mewhinney, Presiding Judge
Mary Beth Todd, Court Executive Officer
Calaveras Superior Court
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Contact for further information or to arrange a tour of the current court facility:

Mary Beth Todd, Court Executive Officer
Calaveras Superior Court
(209) 754-6736

New San Andreas Court Facility Recommended by Governor Schwarzenegger

Yesterday, the Calaveras Superior Court received news from the Administrative Office of the Courts that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has submitted a Finance Letter to the legislature recommending the approval of funding for a new San Andreas Court Facility. The funding request will be considered by the legislature during hearings which will occur sometime in late April or early May.

Presiding Judge Douglas Mewhinney states "This is fantastic news. We have been working with the Administrative Office of the Courts for a long time to demonstrate our need and to secure funding for a new court facility in Calaveras County."

According to Board of Supervisors Chair, Bill Claudino "The County of Calaveras is extremely pleased with the recommendations to build a new courthouse in San Andreas and the county looks forward to the possibility of building a new jail in coordination with the new courts facility."

The courthouse project, as originally proposed, provided for the construction of a six-courtroom facility with only four of the six courtrooms and related support space to be completed and the remaining two courtrooms to be built in 2020. The funding recommendation, however, does not include the future growth courtrooms. It is also proposed that the project would be constructed on land provided by the county in San Andreas.

Currently, court operations are housed in the legal building at the Government Center in San Andreas which was built in the 1960s and an adjacent modular building which was added in 2000 to help alleviate some of the space deficiency. The facilities include two courtrooms, one of which is extremely undersized. The court also relies on the use of the Board of Supervisors chambers and the Old Historic Courthouse in downtown San Andreas in order to meet the demands of its caseload. The facility is functionally deficient, overcrowded, and among the worst in the state in terms of security and physical condition. The court currently occupies 8,950 square feet. A space study developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts in 2006 indicates the court would require a 44,000 square foot facility to meet its current needs. Other deficiencies include the lack of adequate courtrooms, security, waiting areas and life safety systems.